

Assistant Director for Operations

27 October 1948

Chief, FBIB

Conference with Col. Wesley Guest reference FBIB Washington to
London communications 10:30 A. M., 27 August 1948

October

1. Pursuant to our conversation, I have concluded my conference with Col. Guest, reference subject communications. Col. Guest advises that he can lease two AT&T circuits from New York to London and file the traffic from Washington to New York via leased lines immediately, thereby by-passing the Frankfurt communications center altogether.

2. Theoretically, these two circuits can handle 164,000 word groups daily. Actually, however, 100,000 word groups daily can be figured on. They are good circuits and will be working at all times if anything else is working.

3. The total cost of these two circuits for the remainder of Fiscal Year 1949 is approximately \$93,000.

4. The Air Forces want one complete circuit for operational purposes and have made a firm commitment to Col. Guest to supply \$50,000 of the necessary money for the exclusive use of one complete circuit. This leaves one complete circuit over which the State Department wants to transmit approximately 12,000 word groups daily and, in addition, there would be approximately 8,000 word groups of miscellaneous traffic. This would leave assurance of 30,000 word groups daily for FBIB traffic with the possibility, of course, of it being considerably greater.

5. What we would like is approximately 35,000 word groups daily from London to Washington and up to 20,000 from Washington to London. At the moment we are transmitting 5,000 from Washington to London, but we may have to step this up to meet our commitments to the BBC.

6. Col. Guest believes that there would be no difficulty at all in traffic going from Washington to London. If this is the case, then we will only be 5,000 words short of what we want from London to Washington, with a good possibility of getting that, too. I advised Col. Guest that whatever money we could contribute to this circuit would have to come from our savings from Western Union, and that I would recommend to you that the Agency agree to pay not to exceed \$25,000 for this circuit for the remainder of Fiscal Year 1949, provided that:

a. we had reasonable assurance that our present exorbitant Western Union charges would be either eliminated or greatly reduced, and

b. that we could be reasonably assured that the traffic as outlined above could be handled.

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7. Col. Guest was confident that the above conditions would be met.

8. I do not believe that it is possible to get a firm commitment in writing from the Army on this score and, in view of the fact that we have in the past and are still getting a tremendous amount of service for which we pay nothing, I do not think that we should try to press them for a written commitment.

9. This arrangement should give us much faster service than we are now getting. While I do not want it to be a part of this deal, if it is fast enough it may be possible for us to eliminate some of our coverage from the East Coast, thereby saving additional money.

10. We could also eliminate our pro rata share of the leased lines from London to Frankfurt.

11. It would also have an added advantage of insuring the continuity of our operation in case of emergency in Western Europe, which would put Frankfurt out immediately.

12. Permission is requested to advise Col. Guest that CIA will furnish not to exceed \$25,000 for the remainder of Fiscal Year 1949 for the purpose and in accordance with the plan outlined above.

COLONEL L. K. WHITE

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